

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 12: CONSERVATION**  
**Chapter 621: FINFISH LICENSES**

**§6501. COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE**

**1. License required.** A person may not engage in the activities authorized under this section without a current:

- A. Commercial fishing license for a resident operator; [2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §10 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]
- B. Commercial fishing license for a resident operator and all crew members; [2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §10 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]
- C. Commercial fishing license for a nonresident operator and all crew members; or [2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §10 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]
- D. Other license under this Part authorizing the activities. [2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §10 (NEW); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[ 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §10 (AMD); 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF) .]

**2. Licensed activity.** The holder of a commercial fishing license may fish for or take fish or possess, ship, transport or sell fish that the holder has taken. The license authorizes crew members aboard the licensee's boat when it is engaged in commercial fishing to undertake these activities, if the license provides for crew members.

[ 2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §25 (AMD); 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF) .]

**3. Exemptions.** The licensing requirement under subsection 1 does not apply to activities described in this subsection.

- A. A person may fish for, take, possess or transport any species of fish if they have been taken by speargun, harpoon, minnow trap, hand dip net or hook and line and are only for personal use. [2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §25 (AMD); 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]
- B. A person may fish for, take, possess or transport halibut if they have been taken by tub trawl or by hook and line and are only for personal use. [2011, c. 266, Pt. A, §14 (AMD).]
- C. [2011, c. 266, Pt. A, §15 (RP).]

[ 2011, c. 266, Pt. A, §§14, 15 (AMD) .]

**4. Eligibility.** A commercial fishing license may be issued only to an individual.

[ 2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §25 (AMD); 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF) .]

**5. Fees.** Fees for commercial fishing licenses are:

- A. Forty-eight dollars for resident operator; [2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §5 (AMD).]
- B. One hundred twenty-eight dollars for resident operator and all crew members; and [2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §5 (AMD).]

C. Four hundred eighty-one dollars for nonresident operator and all crew members. [ 2009 , c. 213, Pt. G, §5 (AMD) .]

[ 2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §5 (AMD) .]

**6. Definition.** For the purposes of this chapter, "fish" means all marine finfish except Atlantic herring, Atlantic menhaden, whiting, spiny dogfish, river herring, Atlantic mackerel, blueback herring, squid, butterfish, scup, black sea bass, smelt and shad. For the purposes of this chapter, "fish" also means all other marine organisms, except lobsters, crabs, sea urchins, shellfish, scallops, marine worms, elvers, sea cucumbers, eels, shrimp or seaweed.

[ 2011, c. 598, §21 (AMD) .]

#### **7. License freeze.**

[ 1979, c. 25, (NEW); T. 12, §6501, sub-§7 (RP) .]

**8. Violation.** A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

[ 2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §25 (NEW); 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF) .]

#### SECTION HISTORY

1977, c. 661, §5 (NEW). 1979, c. 25, (AMD). 1981, c. 480, §§3,15,16 (AMD). 1983, c. 301, §7 (AMD). 1983, c. 824, §K3 (AMD). 1985, c. 243, (AMD). 1985, c. 379, §2 (AMD). 1985, c. 659, (AMD). 1991, c. 528, §T2 (AMD). 1991, c. 528, §RRR (AFF). 1991, c. 591, §T2 (AMD). 1995, c. 536, §A6 (AMD). 1997, c. 19, §5 (AMD). 1999, c. 491, §4 (AMD). 2001, c. 272, §7 (AMD). 2001, c. 421, §B25 (AMD). 2001, c. 421, §C1 (AFF). 2003, c. 20, §WW6 (AMD). 2003, c. 452, §F10 (AMD). 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). 2009, c. 213, Pt. G, §5 (AMD). 2011, c. 266, Pt. A, §§14-16 (AMD). 2011, c. 598, §21 (AMD). MRSA T.12, §6501, sub-§7 (AMD).

---

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 126th Maine Legislature and is current through August 1, 2014. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.